

**ZION NATIONAL PARK  
COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM**

**2020 OPERATING PLAN FOR  
RECREATIONAL SHUTTLE SERVICES**

**1. Authorized Use Defined:**

Recreational Shuttle Services are authorized for the point-to-point pick-up and drop-off of passengers in Zion National Park at designated parking areas, pullouts and developed areas appearing on the official Zion Park Map available by visiting: <https://www.nps.gov/zion/planyourvisit/maps.htm>. Passengers shall not be picked up or dropped off on roadways or in any area where traffic or terrain creates an unsafe condition. Recreational Shuttle Services also includes the transportation of park visitors through the park area. Shuttle services or business limited to and/or focused upon Zion National Park (intra-park) are not authorized by this permit. Only services defined above may occur under this authorization.

**2. Unauthorized Use Defined:**

Guided Interpretive Hiking: This authorization does not authorize guided hiking, interpretive, or Instructional services on park trails. Leading interpretive talks or walks without proper permitting is a violation of your permit and may result in revocation of permit privileges. Park policy prohibits commercially guided backpacking, climbing, and canyoneering within the park.

Public Use Obstruction: Permitted groups are sharing visitor facilities with the general public. This permit does not convey any priority use of any park areas including road side pullouts, parking areas, picnic areas, etc. Permittees are responsible for the conduct of their clients. Shuttle Services must not interfere with the general visiting public.

Laws and Policies: A Commercial Use Authorization does not authorize permittees to facilitate any activities or actions that are prohibited in the park. For more information on park regulations visit: <http://www.nps.gov/zion/learn/management/lawsandpolicies.htm>. Permit violations can result in punitive action (fine, revocation of permit and or arrest) against both the representative (guide/driver), and the permittee.

**3. Operational Requirements:**

A list of all vehicles and their license plate numbers to be used in the operation, and a list of drivers and a copy of their driver's license with taxi endorsement must be provided to the National Park Service before the permit is issued. It is the permittee's responsibility to continuously update the list of drivers and vehicles and provide proof that vehicles are covered by insurance. The park reserves the right to refuse entry to any previously undeclared driver or vehicle.

The driver of the vehicle shall be responsible for complying with the requirements of this permit, and ensuring that all passengers are familiar with the safety notice (see Special Condition #9).

**4. Driver Requirements:**

All Guides must be identifiable as employees of the permittee: This can be accomplished by nametags and/or company identifiable clothing/accessories/hats. Company vehicles must also be identifiable.

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Medical Certifications: All drivers must have a valid driver's license and current medical certifications at minimum in basic first aid and CPR. These certifications must be on file with the Commercial Services Office. It is the permittees responsibility to keep this information up to date.

**Drivers shall be familiar with which park activities require a backcountry permit and that each passenger has the proper backcountry permit for those activities to which the passenger is being transported.** The Zion Wilderness Guide can be found at the following link: <https://www.nps.gov/zion/learn/news/newspaper.htm>

**Acknowledgement of Permit Conditions:** All guides and drivers are required to submit an online acknowledgement of CUA permit conditions before shuttling visitors into Zion National Park. This form is available by visiting:  
[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAA\\_AAAAAAN\\_icDOTBURE4zUU9XRdc5UIBDTU5aNExESTNRNUwzWC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAA_AAAAAAN_icDOTBURE4zUU9XRdc5UIBDTU5aNExESTNRNUwzWC4u)

**5. Speed Limits, parking, and vehicle requirements:**

Speed Limits: Permittee and permittee's employees must follow all applicable traffic laws and posted speed limits throughout the park. Operating a vehicle at a speed in excess of the speed limit is prohibited. **The passing of motor vehicles is prohibited throughout the park.**

Parking – Loading/Unloading: The flagpole located on the west side of the Zion Canyon Visitor Center is the designated pick-up/drop-off area at the visitor center. This designated pick-up/drop-off area is not a parking space. The driver is required to remain with the vehicle while stopped in this area. During the period from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., the Interpretive Shuttle Bus has exclusive use of the flagpole area on the west side of the Visitor Center. Shuttle permittees may use the area for loading and unloading as long as this service does not conflict with the Interpretive Shuttle Bus.

Parking and stopping along park roads is prohibited except at designated parking areas or pull-offs. All vehicles must be kept on established roadways, and there shall be no interference with pedestrians or other traffic in the park. **Parking and stopping in shuttle bus stops is prohibited during the shuttle season.**

Vehicle Requirements: Gear may be tied to the top of the vehicle, carried inside of the vehicle, or transported in a trailer, but must not be attached to the sides of the vehicle.

Vehicles used while conducting shuttle services must have company identification visible on the driver's side of the vehicle. The park reserves the right to refuse entry to any previously undeclared driver or vehicle.

Vehicles must not idle their engines when parked. Vehicles that sit with engines idling create unacceptable amounts of noise and air pollution within Zion National Park.

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**6. Closures and Public Use Limits:**

The Zion Canyon Scenic Drive is limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, shuttle buses, private vehicles driven by Lodge guests with lodging reservations, and 16+ capacity passenger buses during the shuttle season (typically mid-February through November, subject to change). Travel in Zion Canyon above the Lodge is restricted to all motor vehicles except Zion Park shuttle buses and park administrative traffic.

The permittee's vehicles are prohibited from traveling up the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive during the shuttle season (unless the permittee's fair is in possession of overnight lodging reservations as stated above, a valid Red Permit issued at the entrance station must be displayed and visible in windshield). Visit [www.nps.gov/zion](http://www.nps.gov/zion) for more information on the park's shuttle system.

Additional areas Area Closures: Behind administrative offices, employee housing areas, behind locked gates, near water tanks, beyond fences, on service roads, and in construction areas. Any additional official seasonal or emergency closures of roads, trails, or public areas must be observed by permittee.

**7. Accidents/Injuries/Illness:**

All accidents involving property damage, injuries, and/or medical problems should be reported to the park immediately at a ranger contact station or by calling (435) 772-3322. All such information must also be relayed by the permittee to the Commercial Services Office within 24 hours via email to [zion\\_commercialservices@nps.gov](mailto:zion_commercialservices@nps.gov).

**8. Resource Protection Message:**

All permittees are required to communicate the following messages to clients receiving shuttle service:

- Group leaders should be aware of current local conditions, flood levels, and flash flood warnings. This information can be obtained by stopping at the Visitor Center.
- Collecting or removing from the park any natural or cultural resource, or damaging or defacing any natural or cultural resource is prohibited.
- Stay on the trail in order to protect delicate vegetation and soils.
- In developed areas, the disposal of human waste anywhere other than in designated locations or fixtures provided for that purpose is prohibited. In non-developed areas, the disposal of human waste within 100 feet of a water source, high water mark of a body of water, a campsite, or within sight of a trail is prohibited (36CFR 2.14). The preferred option for human waste disposal is a removal system such as a "[Restop 2.](#)" If a removal system is unavailable a 4- to 8-inch deep "cat hole" can be used. Toilet paper must be carried out.
- Take only pictures - leave no evidence of your visit.
- All food scraps (fruit peels, nut shells, etc.) are considered trash and must be disposed of properly. It is a violation to feed the wildlife, including squirrels.

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- Smoking on trails is highly discouraged. Smokers must use caution when smoking to prevent igniting a wildfire. Cigarette butts are trash and must be packed out for proper disposal. Trip leaders/guides should check fire conditions for current restrictions.

**9. Safety Precautions:**

**Permittees must post a safety notice and advise all participants to read this notice (and/or provide a safety talk before activities begin).** Information contained in this notice must include, but not be limited to, water safety, environmental hazards (weather, floods, sun, temperature, etc.) and resource protection. Leaders should remind participants that heatstroke is a real danger in the desert. Participants should be advised to drink lots of water, eat snacks, and wear hats/sunscreen to minimize sun exposure. Safety information and weather conditions are available at park visitor centers and by visiting [www.nps.gov/zion](http://www.nps.gov/zion)

Each vehicle must carry and maintain a kit for emergency medical care. The kit must be appropriate for group size and the nature of the activity and include a flashlight.

**10. Monitoring:**

The Superintendent shall have the right to monitor permittee's activity for compliance with all aspects of this permit.

**11. Filming:**

All commercial filming requires a Special Use Permit. The permittee must apply for and be issued a Special Use Permit BEFORE any filming takes place within the park for advertising (commercial) purposes. The regulation governing commercial filming and still photography is found in 43 CFR subpart A § 5.12 and states "Commercial filming means the film, electronic, magnetic, digital, or other recording of a moving image by a person, business, or other entity for a market audience with the intent of generating income. Examples include, but are not limited to, feature film, videography, television broadcast, or documentary, or other similar projects. Commercial filming activities may include the advertisement of a product or service, or the use of actors, models, sets, or props." Using film shot in the park without a Special Use Permit is a violation of this permit and may result in revocation of the same. More information may be found at <https://www.nps.gov/zion/planyourvisit/commercial-filming-and-photography.htm>

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**12. Entrance Fees:**

Each time a permittee enters the park, they must identify themselves at a park entrance station or at the Kolob Visitor Center by presenting a valid Commercial Use Authorization Permit (in full) to park staff (and must be able to present to park staff upon request at other park locations). This will enable park personnel to verify holders are on the approved list for commercial activities.

Fee Schedule (subject to change): Individuals or groups who have previously paid an entrance fee must show proof of prior payment.

\$20.00 per participant individual entrance fee will apply to each participant (children 15 and under are free). Participants may use annual or lifetime federal recreational land passes for entry of the pass holder (valid ID required) and three guests. No fee will be collected from an empty vehicle entering the Park for the purpose of picking up passengers. Guides are exempt from entrance fees when facilitating a commercial activity.

Tunnel escort fees of \$15.00 (subject to change) are required for all vehicles over 7' 10" wide and/or 11' 4" high.

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